

The neck of the tumour was then cut through, a little below the ligature, with a single swipe of a probe-pointed bistoury.

"The operation was exceedingly simple and easy; was attended with no great pain; and, as may be supposed, was executed in a few seconds.

"The after-treatment presented no features of particular interest, and the case progressed so favourably that after a few days, I was enabled to discontinue my visits, leaving the patient in the hands of Dr. Pelzer, who in a short time, transferred her to Prof. Frost, the family physician, who, at the period of our attendance, was absent from the city. She speedily recovered, and, as I understand, has since done well.

"On making a section of the tumour, it was found to present a solid homogeneous mass, of a grayish-white texture, and fibrous appearance. The whole cavity formed by the inversion of the walls had become obliterated by adhesions between the opposing peritoneal surfaces; but the point of junction between the vagina and the contour of the cervix could be distinctly recognized, the incision, as stated above, having passed through the walls of the vagina.

"Partial and complete extirpation of the uterus, for various objects—inversion, prolapsus, carcinomatus and other degenerations of its structure—has been so often practised, that the simple operation and the description of which I have detailed, possess no claims to interest in point of novelty; yet it has some value as affording an additional instance to prove that, under similar circumstances, the unfortunate victims of a displacement so deplorable, may often be relieved of much suffering and inconvenience. It might be interesting to collect full references to the numerous cases in which extirpation has been practised on account of inversion, but as I have not time to execute the task, I must content myself with this brief and imperfect exposition of a single case.

Treatment of Rheumatism.—Dr. Fuller, in his recent work upon rheumatism, regards the pathology of the disease as depending upon the presence of a "*materies morbi*," which he supposes to be an excess of lactic acid, owing to defective assimilation, or suppressed perspiration. With the view to the neutralization and elimination of this acid, he recommends the free use of alkalies, by which means he "hopes the average duration of an attack may be reduced, from a month or six weeks, to ten days or a fortnight."

Dr. JOHN B. CHAPIN, states (*New York Medical Times*, Aug. 1854), that during the attendance of Dr. Swett, at the New York Hospital, the present year, all the patients admitted with acute articular rheumatism, were put under the "alkaline treatment;" and he gives a statistical table of twenty-five cases treated by this method.

The salt chosen was the tartrate of soda and potassa, a neutral salt, possessing the property of rendering the urine alkaline.

"The plan of treatment usually pursued was, if the patient presented himself with unusual excitement of the skin and pulse, to administer a mixture of sulphate of magnesia and tartarized antimony, until the skin was relaxed, and the pulse reduced to a more natural standard. The Rochelle salt was then directed, in drachm doses, every two or three hours during the daytime, till the urine was rendered alkaline, when it was gradually suspended. A lotion of carb. potass. $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$, with opium $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$ to the pint of water, was directed as an external application. The administration of the salt was not attended with disagreeable consequences, with the exception occasionally of some ulceration about the fauces—in no case was its action so severe upon the bowels as to require its entire suspension. The persons attacked were in the full vigour of health, and the character of the disease acute in its form. The frequency of administration of the remedy was governed very much by the reaction of the urine.

"On the admission of the patient, the urine was tested, and, in all cases, was found to be of acid reaction, and the secretion of the skin presented the usual acid odour. The treatment was generally commenced the second or third day after admission, and the urine was rendered of decided alkaline reaction in an average of five days after its commencement; the longest period it resisted the alkaline reaction having been twenty days, and the shortest two. The secretions of the skin have not, I believe, been noticed to alter. In one case, attended

with profuse perspiration, which yielded readily to treatment, the coloured shirt the patient wore entirely lost its colour; and it was suggested whether the same change did not take place in the perspiration as in the urine. The average amount of the salt administered was from five to seven ounces.

"The average date of commencing improvement was seven days after commencement of treatment, coinciding, in the large majority of the cases, with the commencing alkalinity of the urine. The improvement was invariably permanent, and after the urine was rendered alkaline, *no new articulations were effected*, as a general rule.

"The average period of convalescence was twelve days after admission; and the whole duration of the disease, including the period previous to admission, was twenty-two days. Of thirty cases treated by Dr. Swett, during April and May, 1853, during which time no uniform course of treatment was pursued, the average duration was five and a half weeks. One of the most gratifying results of the alkaline treatment was the diminished frequency of cardiac complications. Twenty-one of the twenty-five were free from any complication, three were *admitted* with aortic obstruction, and one with mitral regurgitation. Not one patient was attacked with any heart complication during the treatment of the disease. Comparing this result with the practice last year, it was found that four had mitral regurgitation, six aortic complication, and three suffered from pericarditis; thirteen in all, out of thirty.

Hemeralopia.—Dr. C. S. FENNER, of Memphis, Tenn., says (*N. O. Med. and Surg. Journ.* Sept. 1854) that he has met with a considerable number of cases of this affection among negroes working in an extended range of prairie plantations, commencing in Pickens County, Alabama, and extending up through Noxubee, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, and Monroe Counties, Mississippi.

The disease makes its appearance almost invariably in the spring, or early in the summer months, before the young corn and cotton plants have attained sufficient size to shield the eye from the dazzling reflection of the sun's rays from innumerable small pieces of limestone, and fragments of shells that are thickly interspersed through the soil. These prairies constitute immense bodies of a peculiar black soil, lying on a strata of limestone. In many places, the rock approaches the surface, and is entirely bare, reflecting the sun so powerfully as to be almost insupportable to the eye. To a person standing in the middle of some of these large prairies, the horizon, in many directions, seems to meet the surface without a tree or shrub to obstruct the view. I attribute the frequent occurrence of night-blindness through this section of country, to the exhaustion of the nervous power of the retina from continued exposure day after day to the powerfully reflected solar rays, without having any objects, even at a distance (particularly trees covered with green foliage), to relieve the eye, by frequently looking up and bringing a change of scenery within the field of vision.

"Counter-irritation," he adds, "from a succession of blisters, and repose within doors for a few days, are usually all that is requisite to give entire relief. I have been informed of several cases that recovered after the lapse of a few months, without any treatment whatever; and in no instance have I known any permanent injury to vision result from permitting the disease to take its own course."

Nitric Acid as an Anti-Periodic.—Dr. GEO. MENDENHALL calls attention (*Western Lancet*, Aug. 1854) to the use of nitric acid in the treatment of intermittent fever. The facts upon which his paper is based are mainly taken from an Inaugural Dissertation, by Dr. E. T. Bailey, of Emmetsville, Indiana.

The latter states that in the section of country in which he resides, there is a large portion of marshy land, and, therefore, the circumstances are favourable to the development of autumnal fevers. His attention was first attracted to the use of nitric acid in the treatment of intermittent fevers, by noticing its effects in a case of chronic intermittent, which was attended with profuse night-sweats, and for which complication he administered the remedy. In this case, there had been daily paroxysms for the preceding five days; night-sweats profuse, the tongue coated, and the bowels constipated. Nitric acid was given in doses